

MODERN ARABIC

FACULTY

Rasha El Hawari, Teaching Professor and Coordinator

Rasha.Elhawari@concordia.ca, FB-1030.21, ext. 5727.

Research Interests: discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, and course design.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Minor in Modern Arabic Language and Culture and the Certificate in Modern Arabic Language and Culture program aims to provide language competency in Modern Standard Arabic and, through the inclusion of courses on culture, literature and topics offered by other departments (history, religion, and political science), a broad overview of Arabic culture.

The department offers two programs in Modern Standard Arabic language and Arabic culture, each 30 credits: the Minor

and the Certificate. The Minor program gives students majoring in another discipline a valid and adequate background in

Modern Standard Arabic language and culture studies.

PLACEMENT

To find out whether or not you should take a language placement test and how to access the tests, please visit the link below:

[Arabic Placement Test](#)

If you are unsure about your level of placement in the language courses, please see the Undergraduate Class Schedule for procedures and our web site for placement tests. Please feel free to contact the Department for verification.

Students should be aware that the misrepresentation of one's linguistic background and abilities is considered a form of "Academic Misconduct" and, as such, will be treated as a "Code Violation" by the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics.

24 Minor in Modern Arabic Language and Culture

- 6 MARA 200⁶, 203³, 207³
- 12 MARA 206⁶, 240⁶
- 3 Credits chosen from MARA 310³, 320³, 365³, 367³, 398³, 450³
- 3 Credits chosen from MARA 250³ or higher; FLIT 362³, HIST 242³, POLI 391³, 395³; RELI 224³, 316³, 318³, 319³

NOTE: Upon consultation with the Department, students with a background in Arabic maybe placed at a more advanced level in the language component of this program. Heritage speakers of Arabic and students with knowledge of the Arabic script must contact the Department for placement assessment.

30 Certificate in Modern Arabic Language and Culture

- 6 MARA 200⁶, 203³, 207³
- 12 MARA 206⁶, 240⁶
- 6 Credits chosen from MARA 310³, 320³, 365³, 367³, 398³, 450³
- 6 Credits chosen from MARA 250³ or higher; FLIT 362³, HIST 242³, POLI 391³, 395³; RELI 224³, 316³, 318³, 319³

NOTE: Upon consultation with the Department, students with a background in Arabic maybe placed at a more advanced level in the language component of this program. Heritage speakers of Arabic and students with knowledge of the Arabic script must contact the Department for placement assessment.

For a full list of MARA courses, visit the UG Calendar at:

<https://arabic-modern-standard-courses.html>

2025 – 2026 OFFERED COURSES

THE DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TRANSFER A STUDENT TO A HIGHER-LEVEL LANGUAGE COURSE IF IT IS DEEMED THAT THE COURSE FOR WHICH THE STUDENT HAS REGISTERED IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE EXTENT OF HIS OR HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE.

MARA 200 Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic I

(6 credits) This course provides an intensive introduction to the basic elements of Modern Standard Arabic for the student with no knowledge of the language. Instruction addresses all the language competencies of Modern Standard Arabic. *NOTE: Students who have received credit for MARA 203 or 205 or 207 or heritage speakers or students with knowledge of the Arabic script may not take this course for credit.*

MARA 203 Modern Standard Arabic for Heritage Speakers I (3 credits) This course provides an introduction to the basic elements of Modern Standard Arabic for students with basic or limited knowledge of the language. It is designed for heritage speakers with no reading and writing skills in Modern Standard Arabic but with knowledge of dialect vocabulary and oral skills. The course is also for non-heritage students who know the Arabic script but have never studied the Arabic language.

NOTE: Heritage speakers placed into this course can continue with MARA 207 while non-heritage speakers can continue with MARA 206 upon successful completion of this course. NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a MARA 298 number may not take this course for credit.

MARA 206 Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic II

(6 credits) Prerequisite: MARA 200 or 203 or equivalent. This course continues the introduction to the basic elements of Modern Standard Arabic. Students practice conversation skills on basic general topics. *NOTE: Students who have received credit for MARA 207 may not take this course for credit.*

MARA 240 Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I

(6 credits) Prerequisite: MARA 206 or 207 or equivalent. This course provides a review of the basic elements of Modern Standard Arabic and continues to develop the four language skills within their cultural context. Students prepare brief essays and oral presentations.

MARA 310 Introduction to the Literature of the Arab World

(3 credits) This course provides an introduction to the works of some of the major writers of contemporary Arabic culture. The course is taught in English and readings are in English translation.

MARA 365 Culture and Civilization of the Arab World: The Golden Age

(3 credits) This course provides an overview of the cultural history of the Arab world with an emphasis on the "Golden Age" (eighth to 13th century). Special attention is given to some topics at the core of this period, namely the intellectual dynamics, sciences and arts. The Arab civilization is put into the political, social and religious contexts that allowed it to emerge and flourish. This course is taught in English and no prior knowledge of Arabic is required. *NOTE: Students who have received credit for MARA 365 under a different title may not take this course for credit.*

For full program information, please consult the **Undergraduate Calendar**, which remains the only legally binding document on all programs and requirements at Concordia. <https://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar.html>

PLACEMENT TEST

To access the language placement tests:

1. LOG IN to the Student Hub at My Courses on Moodle. Your Moodle courses are listed within the My Moodle Courses section of your portal front page. If you do not see "CMLL Language Placement Tests", click on "All courses ...".
<https://hub.concordia.ca/students/courses/moodle.html>
3. Choose the "Placement Tests (1)" course in the list. The course is located under the following category: Arts & Science → Classics, Modern Languages & Linguistics → Placement Tests. Alternatively, you can scroll to the bottom of the page and type "CMLL Language Placement Tests" in the search box.
4. Click on "CMLL Language Placement Tests". If an enrollment key/password is required, please enter "ghtrg45tgtrhe5e6u".
5. Locate the appropriate placement test on the course home page.



For more information or to arrange an appointment for academic advising

Location: FB-1030

Email: sandra.woywod-page@concordia.ca

Website: <http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/cmll.html>

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Concordia International, in collaboration with the various faculties and the School of Graduate Studies, administers student exchange and internships with Concordia's partner universities and other institutions of higher learning around the world. This exchange enhances relationships between the people and cultures of different countries and promotes international education.
<http://www.concordia.ca/offices/ci.html>

CAREER AND PLACEMENT SERVICES (CAPS)

For degree-work related information, you may also want to contact the Career and Placement Services (CAPS) at Concordia. It provides assistance and advice regarding job searches and information on the job market and it facilitates access to summer, part-time, internship and entry-level positions. This is an ideal service to find jobs related to a particular field of study. CAPS is located at 2070 Mackay, office AN 109 and can be reached by phone at extension 7345.